



Wrangell, Alaska  
July 26, 2018

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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12 Pages

## Wrangell, Petersburg police collaborate in active shooter training

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Members of the Wrangell and Petersburg police departments collaborated on some active shooter training on July 19 and 20. About four members of the Petersburg police department joined five members of the Wrangell police for the training which was lead by Jeff Hall.

Hall has about 35 years of martial arts and law enforcement experience, also having previously worked with the Alaska State Troopers.

Most of the training on July 19 was on the theory of stopping a shooting. Hall said that the goal is to locate the target as quickly as possible and eliminate the threat. In a shooting

situation, he said, there's no time for discussion. All the theories were put into practice on Friday at the shooting range. Hall showed the participating police officers some basic military tactics on how to advance and retreat under fire. He said that when he was younger these would have been considered advanced tactics for police to know, but they have become necessary in recent years.

"This is becoming more and more common," he said.

Wrangell Police Chief Doug McCloskey said that his department trains with Petersburg as often as they can as their two departments are so close together.

"If things aren't going well



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Petersburg and Wrangell police participating in live-fire training.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Jeff Hall led the training for the Wrangell and Petersburg police departments. Here, he is explaining to participating officers how to advance and withdraw while covering each other.

"If things aren't going well Petersburg, will probably be our closest resource, and us for them."

- Doug McCloskey,  
Wrangell Police Chief

of training we invite them over. Sometimes they can make it and sometimes they can't, but we always invite them."

"I wanted to come over because I was just made chief in Petersburg," said Petersburg Police Chief James Kerr, "I wanted to use this training to bring both departments together."

Kerr said he hopes for stronger collaboration between the two departments in the future, especially in combating drug-related crimes.

"It was great training," he said. "It was nice to have the active shooter training."

Petersburg, will probably be our closest resource, and us for them," he said. "Usually when we do any kind

## New principal comes to Evergreen Elementary

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Evergreen Elementary School will be under new leadership come August. Virginia Tulley, the school's new principal, is looking forward to making a difference in Wrangell.

"I went into teaching because I lived on a Navajo reservation, and I would be working with my own people and the children of my own people. I just really wanted to make a difference," Tulley said.

She said she got a late start in her teaching career, not going

"I went into teaching because I lived on a Navajo reservation, and I would be working with my own people and the children of my own people. I just really wanted to make a difference."

- Virginia Tulley,  
Evergreen Elementary School's Principal

back to school until her youngest child was in elementary school. In 2000, Tulley received her bachelor's degree in

elementary education from the University of New Mexico. This was followed with a master's degree in educational leader-



ship from Northern Arizona University in 2010. She has spent her career in many educational positions across

Arizona, but she said she has been eager to come to Alaska, ever since visiting the state on a vacation a few years ago.

"I always wanted to live in Alaska," Tulley said. "I don't know my specific reason other than I wanted to explore ... I just knew I wanted the lower part of Alaska."

Tulley said her first day of work will be August 6, and plans to arrive in Wrangell on July 31 by ferry.

"I'm so excited to come up there and be a part of the community," she said.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar.

**Thursday, July 26:** Evan Fortunato, Kyle Cooper, Darian Burley, David Allen, Paige Baggen, Timothy Melzer, Gus Barlow.  
**Friday, July 27:** Damon Roher, Lester Schultz, Jean Kuntz, Randy Robinson Sr, Karla Fennimore, Ann Johnson, Kristy Woodbury, Daniel Churchill.  
**Saturday, July 28:** Gunner Smith, April Larabee, Gavin DeBoer, Tasha Morse, Danette Grover, Michael Guggenbickler.  
**Sunday, July 29:** Devlyn Campbell, Tony Rice, Katie Hagan, Jeffrey Brown, Alice Rooney.  
*Anniversary:* Harold and Carol Snoddy, David and LeAnn Bryner.  
**Monday, July 30:** Bruce Jamieson, Scott McConachie.  
*Anniversary:* Glen and Kelley Decker, William and Laurie Barker.  
**Tuesday, July 31:** Tyler Crayne, John Morse, David Durnez, Jeffrey Davidson, Dino Brock.  
**Wednesday, August 1:** Brynlee Young, Charles Moore, Kadin Messmer, Douglas Wickman, Jean Brown, Allen Edgley.  
*Anniversary:* Adam and Tasha Morse, Haig and Bonnie Demerjian, Doug and Pam McCloskey.  
**Thursday, August 2:** Debra Werner.  
 If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, July 26**  
 Mac & Cheese w/Ham, Cauliflower, Spinach Salad

**Friday, July 27**  
 Turkey & Veggie Soup, Fruit Salad and 1/2 Cheese Sandwich

**Monday, July 30**  
 Chicken Tahitian, Peas, Carrot & Pineapple Salad

**Tuesday, July 31**  
 A-1 Meatloaf, Steamed Greens, Perfection Salad, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

**Wednesday, August 1**  
 Pork Roast, Baked Sweet Potatoes & Apples, Fruit Cocktail, Wheat Bread

**Thursday, August 2**  
 Beefaroni, Mexicali Vegetables, Apricot Salad

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations. Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## FERRY

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Saturday, July 28**  
 Malaspina 9:45 a.m.  
**Sunday, July 29**  
 Columbia 3:15 p.m.  
**Tuesday, July 31**  
 Malaspina 5:45 p.m.  
**Saturday, August 4**  
 Malaspina 7:45 a.m.  
**Sunday, August 5**  
 Columbia 3:45 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Friday, July 27**  
 Malaspina 12:00 a.m.  
**Monday, July 30**  
 Malaspina 4:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday, August 1**  
 Columbia 4:45 a.m.  
**Thursday, August 2**  
 Malaspina 9:30 p.m.  
**Monday, August 6**  
 Malaspina 3:30 a.m.

Arrival times may vary. Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 for recorded information.



## TIDES July 26 - August 2

	High Tides				Low Tides			
	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft
July 26	0:32	16.5	1:29	14.3	7:04	-0.7	6:59	3.7
July 27	1:11	16.6	2:06	14.7	7:36	-1.0	7:34	3.4
July 28	1:47	16.6	2:40	14.8	8:07	-1.1	8:07	3.3
July 29	2:21	16.4	3:11	14.8	8:37	-1.0	8:40	3.2
July 30	2:53	16.0	3:42	14.8	9:07	-0.7	9:14	3.2
July 31	3:25	15.5	4:11	14.7	9:37	-0.2	9:50	3.1
August 1	3:59	14.8	4:43	14.7	10:10	0.3	10:30	3.1
August 2	4:37	14.1	5:18	14.6	10:46	1.1	11:17	3.1

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Saturday, July 28

**Baby Raven Reads:** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Cultural Center. Alaska Native Families with children up to age 5 are invited to join us for storytelling, songs, and other cultural and literacy activities. Families can enroll at the event. This weeks theme is Alphabet. To enroll go to [goo.gl/pX8gDz](http://goo.gl/pX8gDz) or call SHI education office at 907-586-9219

Sunday, July 29

**Singspiration:** 6:30 p.m., Lutheran Church. Pastor Nancy and 'The Lemon Sisters'. Refreshments and fellowship will be available after the service. All are welcome.

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Send information for Roundup to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) or call 874-2301.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES: Mid-day closure: M-F 1:30-3:30 p.m. Closed Sunday**

#### Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class: M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
 Water Aerobics: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Lap Swim: M-W-F 6:00-7:30 a.m. MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. TuTh 5:15-6:15 p.m. Sa 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 2 Lane Lap Swim: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Lap/Tot Swim: MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Swim Club: M-F 3:15-5:15 p.m.  
 Open Swim: M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
**Weight Room:** M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m. S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

#### MEETINGS

**AA Meetings:** Smoked Fish Fri 8 p.m.; Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided

## The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

#### August 1, 1918

Surgeon General G. Sterling Ryerson, founder and past president of the Canadian Red Cross, will leave Seattle August 2, on the Spokane, and upon arrival in Wrangell, will be at the disposal of the local Red Cross Chapter while the vessel is in port. An effort will be made for him to speak to the people of Wrangell.

Surgeon General Ryerson who is retired from the Canadian army, has served in five military expeditions, including South Africa and the Great War. He is Inspector General of Red Cross work in France. His eldest son was killed in action at St. Julien and his second son, now a major in command of a field artillery, was wounded. A third son, who is in the Engineers, is now in a hospital suffering from shell shock. Dr. Ryerson, from his intimate knowledge of war and its ravages should be an interesting speaker.

#### July 30, 1943

Discussing the Alaska Military Highway and the other proposed routes from the States to the north, Delegate Dimond said the chances of getting "A" route, the one nearest the coast, are very slim at the present time and the prospect for "B" route, between the coastal route and the present military highway, is not overly bright. Major reasons are that Canada will not put any money into the ventures and the attitude of Congress generally appears to be not to spend further American money in Canada, as Uncle Sam is now bearing the complete burden of the military road. Pressure continues to be exerted on the west coast with the compromise feeling that "B" route would be better than nothing, but the outlook for "B" route is not bright, although a connection with Puget Sound might be worked out.

#### July 25, 1968

Saturday window service is

being discontinued at the Wrangell Post Office beginning this week, Acting Postmaster Bernard Iversen reports.

Iversen said general delivery mail will be given out from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Postal customers will not be able to purchase stamps, pick up parcels or do other business at the office on Saturdays, however.

Iversen said the closure will not affect the movement of the mail as sorting and dispatching will continue as usual. The cut-back is part of a national economy move.

#### July 29, 1993

The Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department has recruited volunteers to serve on a committee that will prepare plans and coordinate response to natural and man-made disasters in the Wrangell-Petersburg areas.

The committee, called LEPC, is mandated by a federal law that requires these committees to be established across the country. Wrangell fire volunteer Randy Churchill is coordinating the committee locally. "Petersburg and Wrangell are forming a joint committee because we are two small towns that would be more efficient working together on this" Churchill explained.

LEPCs are required to analyze hazards within their district, compile the information, and make the information available to the public. As a final step, LEPCs must put together a plan to deal with emergencies such as spills or releases of hazardous materials. The local LEPC has received an operating budget from the state.

**Castle Mountain Entertainment**

There will be no movie this weekend.

Coming Soon:

**Ant-Man & the Wasp, Skyscraper, Mission Impossible**

'Like' us on Facebook for the most up to date info!

Tickets:  
 \$5 for 12 & under,  
 \$7 for 13 & up

Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop

Movie info: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
July 16	55	53
July 17	55	51
July 18	52	50
July 19	53	51
July 20	68	51
July 21	73	53
July 22	73	55
July 23	73	55

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
July 26	4:39 am	9:08 pm	16:29h
July 27	4:41am	9:07 pm	16:26h
July 28	4:43 am	9:05 pm	16:22h
July 29	4:45 am	9:03 pm	16:18h
July 30	4:46 am	9:01 pm	16:15h
July 31	4:48 am	8:59 pm	16:11h
Aug 01	4:50 am	8:57 pm	16:07h
Aug 02	4:52 am	8:55 pm	16:03h

# New president, VP named at medical board meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Medical Center Board of Directors met July 18, at city hall for their regularly scheduled meeting. While not initially on the agenda, the board appointed a new president and vice president during this meeting. The issue was raised by board member Don McConachie, who pointed out that having a president was a part of the board's charter. He also said that since the board was trying to find a new

member to fill a vacant seat, appointing a new president could help encourage people who wanted to apply but did not want the responsibilities of president. After a brief discussion, Olinda White was appointed board president, and Jennifer Bates was voted vice president.

The board also heard a report from quality director Cathy Gross on Wrangell's Long Term Care (LTC) quality. The WMC LTC, according to



ILLUSTRATION BY TAWNEY FLORES

## Allen to serve 7-years pending plea hearing on August 8

PETERSBURG - William Christopher Allen's attorney and the State Prosecutor have reached a negotiated agreement where the defendant will face a sentence of 16-years in jail with nine suspended, leaving seven years to serve.

Allen was facing multiple felony counts following a vehicle crash on July 4, 2016 that killed Molly Parks and Marie Giesbrcht while Allen was driving the Parks and Rec. van and is believed to have suffered a seizure that caused the accident.

Other terms of the change of plea agreement and final sentencing have to be approved by the court at the August 8 hearing. Judge Trevor Stephens will preside at the hearing.

Allen was originally charged with two counts of murder in the second degree and two counts of manslaughter plus charges of assault in the first degree and unsworn falsification.

The prosecution states in court records that Allen suffers from a seizure disorder, lied on driver license applications and ignored repeated orders from doctors not to drive.

The defendant's Attorney Julie Willoughby advised the court that Allen will require medical consultation before going into custody so the corrections facility will be aware of his medical needs upon admission.

Court records reflect that family and friends of the victims were present at both court hearings on July 13 and July 17. Allen's father Perry also attended.

Adrienne Bachmann represented the State.

The Molly Parks Estate has filed a wrongful death claim against the Petersburg Borough, State of Alaska and Allen.

information provided by Gross, ranks seventh out of 18 long term care providers in Alaska. This ranking is determined by looking at information from March 2017 to May 2018, as to the number of in-care conditions patients develop. Urinary tract infections were an example of an in-care condition that Gross gave. The national target average is six percent, Gross said. Wrangell, she said, has been below the state average for eight of the 12 months that were reviewed, currently at 7.55 percent as compared to the state average of 8.67 percent. In December 2017 they were below the national target at 4.03 percent. She said that

it is hard for smaller long term care facilities to keep their percentages low, because each patient can cause a larger jump in numbers with any conditions they develop.

CEO Robert Rang also gave a report to the board on various items. Jessica Rooney, who works at the front desk of the medical center, was named the June STAR employee of the month. Architects from World Architects also came by the medical center on July 17 to meet with employees, share updates on the ongoing new hospital design project and to receive input back from the employees. Members of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

(SEARHC) also came by Wrangell earlier this month for a meet-and-greet with medical center members. As SEARHC is purchasing the Wrangell Medical Center, these meetings are meant to help smooth the eventual transition in ownership.

Rang also said that the hospital auxiliary will be hosting a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Wrangell Medical Center building. There will be a BBQ lunch this Friday, July 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rang also reminded board members that the annual employee appreciation picnic will take place at the Muskeg Meadows golf course on August 3. The next meeting will be August 7.

## Police report

### July 16

Arrested: David Sweat, 58. On charges of MVA/DUI.

Bear sighting: Report of bear in yard.

Citations issued: Celsee Churchill for objectionable animal and dog license.

Citizen assist: Officer open vehicle for owner.

### July 17

Title 47.

Driving complaint.

Report of theft.

Driving complaint.

86'd letter: Received from business and served on individual.

Civil issue: Report of someone cutting a tree on private property.

Abandoned vehicle.

Citation issued: Andrew Twyford, 19. For failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for having off road lights on.

### July 18

Welfare check.

Summons service.

86'd letter service.

Two agency assists: TSA.

Agency assist: Criminal mischief.

Citation issued: Andrew Twyford, 19. For time limit parking-72 hour.

Citation issued: Brittney Holder, 22. Speeding.

Bear sighting: Area of Shoemaker Bay.

Theft: Lumber from Petroglyph Beach area.

### July 19

Trespass.

Citizen assist: Vehicle unlocked.

Agency assist: NOAA.

### July 20

Animal complaint: Dead porcupine in roadway.

Found property.

Citation issued: Robert Johnson, 63. Expired registration.

Agency assist: USFS.

Traffic complaint.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

### July 21

Disturbance: Criminal mischief.

Probation violation.

### July 22

Report of theft.

Suspicious circumstance.

Arrested: Nicole Lupro, 32. On charges of DUI.

MICS: Items found.

Traffic: Person blocking traffic.

Criminal Mischief: Phone number stenciled on private property.

Agency assist: WMC

There was one ambulance call this week.

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Be prepared.

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## Letter to the Editor

**To the Editor:**

I'm a bit late but would like to thank the organizers of the 4th of July boat races for all their sincere efforts and success. I would also like to especially thank the young men participating in the event that helped me in many ways to make it legal for me to race with helmet, fire extinguisher, tie down, etc.

The last time I participated in a boat race was the year Susie Haye graduated from high school. I think it was 1961 and we raced from Petersburg to Wrangell. The wind was blowing out of the river and my 16' plywood boat began coming apart as I made my way down to Wrangell. As I pulled up to the dock two young men jumped into the boat and pulled the outboard off the fronsom as the boat began to sink. A good time was had by all. Thanks again Wrangell for a great 4th. I won 3rd place in 1961, a prize of \$25.00.

**Mike Schwartz**

## Reflections

The first of August I board the ferry to return to Washington State. I have spent two years in Wrangell, serving as the pastor of Island of Faith Lutheran Church. Before I leave, I appreciate the opportunity to share in print some of the memories I will take with me of my time here.

Wrangell makes a lasting impression. This community abounds with hospitality. Newcomers are welcomed with smiles and offers of help, ranging from housing to employment to basic needs of food and clothing. The message is clear: welcome to Wrangell, we're glad you're here. Compassion is also part of the fabric of the community. Illnesses, accidents, and deaths bring people together to comfort and care for the families going through hard times. When families experience hard times, people rally around to offer support, financial and spiritual. I am leaving Alaska for the mountains of Washington; I cannot leave without expressing gratitude to Island of Faith for the privilege of serving as their pastor and to the Wrangell Ministerial Association for their fellowship and presence.

**Pastor Nancy Gradwohl**



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Local entrepreneurs sell homemade bookmarks

Some local entrepreneurs set up shop on Reid Street Monday afternoon. (Left to right) Kiah Bylow, Clara Carney, Jackson Carney and Mariah Carney were offering homemade bookmarks to passersby. Prices ranged from one to four dollars.



I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the 4th of July Royalty Competition successful this year. To the candidates, Robbie Marshall, Draven

Golding, & KayDee Howell as well as their teams this isn't possible without you all, thank you for all your tireless hours of work. To the businesses and people that supported all the candidates multiple ways throughout the month, you help to make this competition financially successful, thank you. To the Chamber of Commerce Office and Board your continued support of this one of a kind event is wonderful, our 4th of July Celebration would not be as great as it is without all of your hard work. Thank you to John Waddington for his continued support as the 4th of July Chairperson. Thank you to Marilyn Mork for serving as the overall ticket manager for the Royalty Competition. Thank you to the community for your continued support of the Chamber of Commerce's events. I'd also like to give some personal thanks to Rachel Harris for stepping in and up for me when I was unavailable, and thank you to my family for understanding my passion to help continuing to make the 4th of July an extremely successful event.

**Royalty Manager, Jessica Whitaker**



**is welcomed**

### POLICY FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than **400 words**.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

*The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.*

The Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 PM for Thursday publication.

*Letters are run on a space available basis.*

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# Fun run continues to attract the younger generation

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Lucy Robinson started her running group, Southeast

Beasts, in 2012. The group is meant to offer both new and experienced runners an informal, fun place for people to exercise and enjoy the Alaskan outdoors.

Robinson is now helping spread her love of running to the next generation. Once a week, volunteering with the Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department, she leads a group of kids on a fun run through Volunteer Park, next to Evergreen Elementary school.

"We do this every Monday that we can, unless something else is scheduled," she said. "Rain or shine we run around the big loop."

Robinson said she normally has a group of about 30 kids running with her, but the number varies week to week. She and several other volunteers start the kids off with a warm up and several stretches before beginning the run, and the kids are divided into separate



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lucy Robinson leading a group of kids through some stretches before their Monday run through Volunteer Park.



**Join the WMC Staff to celebrate our 50th Anniversary**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 27, 12PM**  
**AT WMC'S GAZEBO**

*Come for hot dogs & cake, and stay to swap stories about our historic healthcare facility.*

**Group photo of all residents who were born in our current hospital**  
**SEE YOU THERE!**

**Rally for Cancer Care for Southeast Alaska**

**Women's Tournament**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**  
 Registration 9 am @ Muskeg Meadows  
 \$35/person (includes lunch)  
**All proceeds go towards Cancer Care**

Cancer Care is a financial grant for residents of SE Alaska available through the WMC Foundation to help cover expenses related to cancer treatment outside of your hometown.

For tournament information, or to donate or volunteer call Jane Bliss 874-7159 or Aaron Angerman 874-7196

groups depending on their speed. talk about warming up and talk about encouraging people to get outside and have fun." "We focus on pace, we people along the way," Robinson said.

## Petersburg South Harbor dredging awaits study results

By BRIAN VARELA  
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - A feasibility study is currently underway to determine if the United States Army Corps of Engineers will dredge South Harbor and allow smoother access.

Some vessels are scraping and hitting the bottom of the harbor, especially during low tides, when they enter South Harbor, said harbormaster Glorianne Wollen; as a result, vessels are having trouble entering the harbor. The USACE was contacted and agreed to conduct a feasibility study, which will determine the problem in the harbor and possible solutions to it, as well as total costs and deposit locations for dredged spoils, said Wollen.

"That's a struggle as a community we need to be able to deal with," said Wollen. "It's just compounding. Every year it's getting worse and worse."

Petersburg committed 50 percent of the funding for the study for a total of \$325,000, according to a preliminary release from the USACE. The federal government contributed the other 50 percent, in addition to another \$100,000. The total cost of the study was \$750,000, according to the release.

The money for Petersburg's half of the study was paid for by harbor enterprise money and did not come from community members' taxes, said Wollen.

Unlike North Harbor, South Harbor isn't a federally constructed harbor and isn't maintained by the federal government, according to the release. Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended, states that the federal government is to set aside \$50,000,000 a fiscal year for the construction of small river and harbor improvement projects that have not been specifically authorized by Congress. The act puts a limit of \$10,000,000 for a project at any single locality. Small river and harbor improvements must result in substantial benefits to navigation and allow consistent, economic use of the waters of the Nation, the act states.

There are a large number of commercial fishermen that are fishing federal waters, said Wollen. The catch that the fishermen bring in benefit the Petersburg community and the nation.

"Petersburg is always a part of the top 20 ports," said Wollen. "We always come in value wise."

Should the feasibility study determine that the dredging of South Harbor falls within the limits of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 and can move forward, the project may qualify for an 80-20 split or a 90-10 split, with the federal government paying the majority share, said Wollen. A total, final project cost won't be available until the feasibility study is completed, but Wollen estimates that it may be between \$9-13 million.

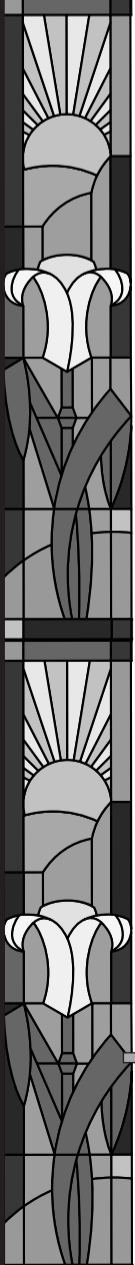
"If they say no to this, eventually, it's not going to happen tomorrow, eventually we could have to shut down some of the harbor or pay to have it dredged out of pocket," said Wollen. "Those numbers are so large, that I just don't know where we'd get the money to do this."

Since South Harbor wasn't constructed by the federal government, general navigation features (GNF) such as entrance channels and maneuvering basins, and local service facilities (LSF), such as mooring areas and local access channels, weren't established in the harbor, according to the release. If the project does move forward, then GNF and LSF areas will be created and the harbor will become a federally maintained harbor; however, the federal government will only dredge GNF designated areas and the dredging of LSF areas will be the responsibility of Petersburg, according to the release.

Possible deposit sites for the dredged spoils are Thomas Bay, Frederick Sound and the borough's rock pit, said Wollen. Currently, the Petersburg Borough Harbor Department is seeking a vessel, and its crew, to hire to assist the USACE in sample surveying Thomas Bay and Frederick Sound. The sample surveying will take place four times in one-year to determine if Thomas Bay or Frederick Sound are biologically stable disposal spots. The USACE estimates that a total of 52,000 cubic yards of spoil may need to be dredged, according to the release.

"It's kind of an answer to prayer," said Wollen. "If we can get it to the project level where we can actually move forward and do some dredging."

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



**Harborlight Assembly of God**  
 Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,  
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. 874-2244

**St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Church**  
 Sunday Masses 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
 Enrichment in Faith- All are welcome, 10:00 a.m.  
 874-3771 or 305-0654

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.  
 874-3047 or 874-4480

**First Presbyterian**  
 Worship Service 11 a.m.; 874-3534

**The Salvation Army**  
 Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
 874-3753

**Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA**  
 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,  
 Faith Walking Saturday 10 a.m., 874-2743

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
 Priesthood Relief Society & Primary at noon.;  
 Sunday School 11 a.m.; Sacrament 10 a.m.,  
 874-3976 or 3778

**Wrangell Community Church of God**  
 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964


**Bible Baptist Church**  
 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;  
 Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., 874-2069

**Wrangell Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
 Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.;  
 Young People & Adult Study, 9:30 a.m., 874-3039

**Baha'i Faith**  
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# Alaska officials: Salmon ballot initiative could be costly



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Elks Grand Exalted Ruler

July 4, 2018, Mike Luhr was installed as the new national president of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, during the organization's 154th national convention held in San Antonio, Texas. Luhr was joined at his installation by his wife Barb, daughter Bradee, her husband Adam Axmaker, their son Justin Axmaker and three more of his grandchildren.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - The Alaska ballot initiative that aims to strengthen state law protecting salmon habitat could be costly and delay infrastructure projects, state officials said.

The officials noted the possible negative effects during the Senate State Affairs Committee meeting last week in Anchorage.

The initiative would increase the number of streams that officials must assume have salmon, likely resulting in more state checks on the streams, said Ben White, the environmental program manager for the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

"They're not always there when we're there, and so that's an expense," White told lawmakers. "It takes us time and effort to get out to the sites at a lot of times. And so, this is going to increase the delivery time of our projects."

Ron Benkert, a habitat coordinator for the state Department of Fish and Game, told the committee that the state would need to hire more people to enforce the regulations if the measure is enacted.

"There is a significant impact from a cost perspective," Benkert said. "Our estimate is about \$1.3 million a year annually for at least five years."

Supporters claim the opposite, saying the initiative would eventually save the state money.

"With the assumption that fish are in the streams, that saves the Department of Fish and Game a lot of money and resources \_ from going out and constantly testing these streams to add them to the existing catalog \_ so this is really about saving Alaskans money," Stand for Salmon Director Ryan Schryver told KTOO Public Media in Juneau.

The Alaska Supreme Court heard arguments earlier this year on whether the initiative can appear on the November ballot. The court is expected to issue a ruling by September.

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PETERSBURG, ALASKA

# Maintenance on SEAPA pole causes power outage out the road

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By **BRIAN VARELA**  
*Sentinel writer*

PETERSBURG - Petersburg Municipal Power & Light shut down power on June 19 in order to replace a Southeast Alaska Power Agency transmission pole in Falls Creek.

The power was shut off from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Twin Creek road and Crystal Lake Hatchery, said Scott Newman, general foreman with Petersburg Municipal

Power & Light. Since the transmission pole was owned by SEAPA and not the city, SEAPA sent out their own contractors to conduct the work, said Newman. Petersburg Municipal Power & Light assisted SEAPA with some of the work and with shutting down the power, but the contractors did most of the work.

"Wrangell lent them the bucket," said Newman. "We let them use our line truck. Everybody kind of helped out."

In September, SEAPA will be working in Wrangell and needs the transmission line turned off for four days, said public works director Karl Hagerman. Petersburg will be running on diesel while the work is being done and will not experience a power outage, said Hagerman.

"We don't want there to be outages in our system, but sometimes we have to take outages to do maintenance," said Hagerman.

## Data: Job losses appear to be slowing across Alaska

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Recent figures indicate Alaska's unemployment rate improved slightly last month.

The Juneau Empire reports numbers from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development say the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 7.2 percent to 7.1 percent in June.

The slight improvement comes as Alaska reports the fewest number of June jobs since 2010.

The department's figures say the state had 347,400 non-farm jobs in June. That's down 1,700 from June 2017 and down 11,400 from June 2015, the start of a statewide oil-price-driven recession.

There was a decline of 6,100 jobs between June 2015 and June 2016. That decline dropped to 2,800 between June 2016 and June 2017.

## Water levels recede after glacial dam outburst in Juneau

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Water levels have receded on Mendenhall Lake in Alaska's capital city following a glacial dam outburst.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Jessica Voveris in Juneau says water levels crested at 10.92 feet late Thursday afternoon. As of 5:15 a.m. Friday, they had dropped to about 7.5 feet.

The release of water from a glacially dammed lake this week created flooding concerns for some residents along the Mendenhall River. The lake feeds into the river.

Forecasters had thought the crest could end up just below 12 feet but there was some uncertainty with that estimate. One unknown was how much water was released in the glacial dam outburst.

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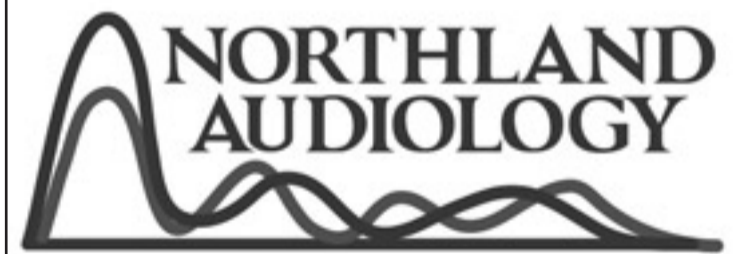
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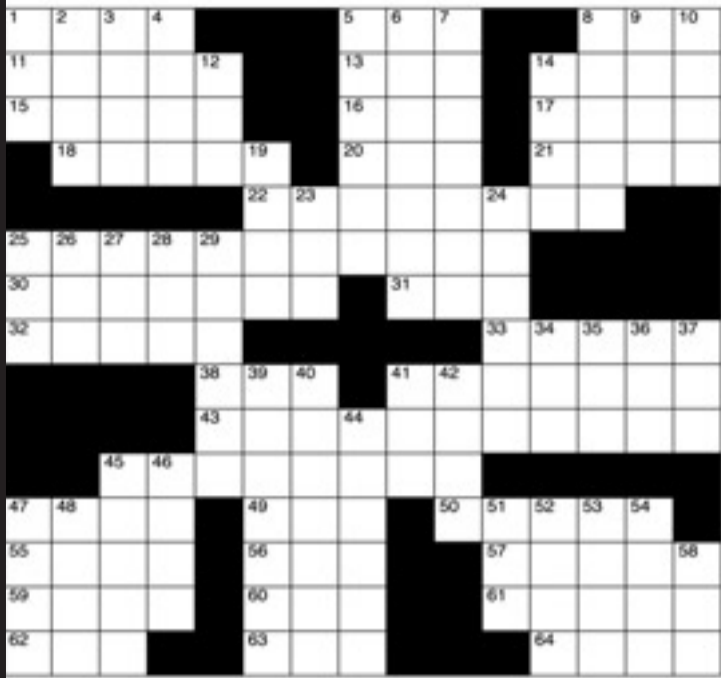
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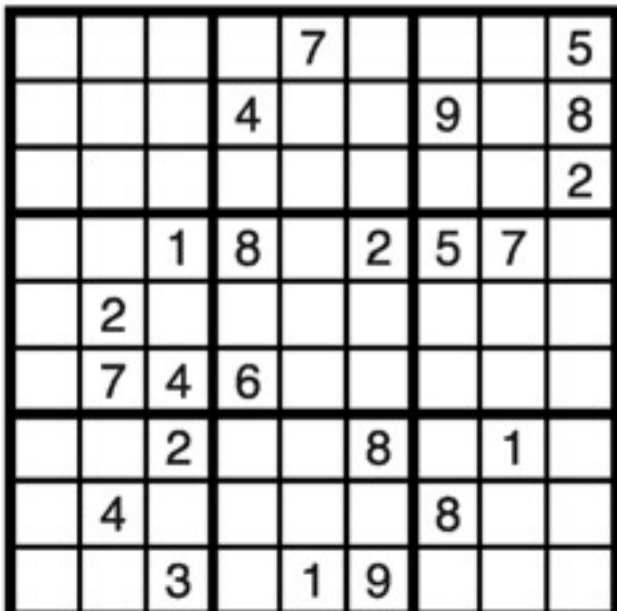
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sacred bull (Egyptian myth.)
- 5. One-time European money
- 8. Disfigure
- 11. Polish city
- 13. Move quickly on foot
- 14. Landlocked West African country
- 15. Used in aromatherapy
- 16. The greatest of all time
- 17. Type of horse
- 18. Volcanic craters
- 20. Type of graph (abbr.)
- 21. Supporters
- 22. North and South are two
- 25. Spread
- 30. Adjusted
- 31. Vietnamese offensive
- 32. Nazi architect
- 33. Nigerian peoples
- 38. When you hope to get there
- 41. Ridicules
- 43. Allied Powers vs. Central Powers
- 45. Produce
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. "Sin City" actress
- 56. Female reproductive cells
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Garland
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Negative
- 63. Tooth caregiver
- 64. Cheek

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Form of "to be"
- 2. A hand has one
- 3. Thought
- 4. Physical body
- 5. Removes
- 6. One who perpetrates wrongdoing
- 7. Make one
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. \_\_\_ Ladd, "Shane" actor
- 10. Makes fun of
- 12. Space station
- 14. Gene
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Livid
- 24. It comes after "et"
- 25. More (Spanish)
- 26. Electronic data processing
- 27. Buffer solution to separate DNA and RNA
- 28. Primate
- 29. Scattered
- 34. Evergreen tree
- 35. What engaged couples will say
- 36. Barbie's friend
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A position from which progress can be made
- 40. Showed up
- 41. Insecticide
- 42. Type of milk
- 44. Verandas
- 45. Annoyingly talkative
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. "Heat" director
- 48. Plant genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Freedom fighters (slang)
- 58. Criticize

# SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Puzzle answers will be in the August 2 edition

# Classified/Legals

## City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly approved rescheduling the Regular Assembly meeting of July 24, 2018 to **Tuesday, August 7, 2018.**  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
**Publish: July 19 and July 26, 2018.**



## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

### JOB BULLETIN: Public Works Director Public Works Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for a Public Works Director to lead the Borough's Public Works Department.

The Public Works Director is a management position responsible for integrating different, yet related functions supporting overall Public Works goals. Exercises decision making, supervision and problem-solving skills on a daily basis for efficient delivery of public services, infrastructure maintenance and customer service.

The Public Works Director requires competency in construction management and the ability to integrate a complete system of streets, sanitation, water distribution, wastewater treatment, and fleet management.

This position oversees all Public Works, Sewer, Water, Garage and Sanitation employees and operations. Ensures compliance with State and Federal health and safety, water quality and wastewater regulations. The Public Works Director is responsible for hiring, evaluating, and managing all Public Works employees, including ensuring training for proper certification is obtained.

This position is also responsible for the annual development and administration of the overall budgets for all Public Works departments, departmental functions and special projects. They will assist the Capital Facilities Director in evaluation of annual maintenance and capital project needs related to Public Works facilities and operations. Being a liaison between the Borough and labor unions, State and Federal agencies, as well as contractors and outside agencies is an integral part of this position.

This position will appeal to a candidate who thrives in a fast-paced, collaborative, team-centered work environment and enjoys solving problems autonomously and efficiently. Preferred experience includes a knowledge of Federal, State, and local laws relating to Public Works, principles and practices of street, water, and sewer operations. The typical qualifying entrance background requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent with major course work in civil engineering, construction management, business administration, public administration, or a related field, and five years of responsible experience in planning, organizing and directing a public works or related operation, including three years in an administrative or supervisory capacity. Other combinations of education and experience may be substitutes that demonstrate competency in the desired knowledge, skills and abilities for this position.

This is a full-time, salaried position with full benefits, paid at Grade 30 ranging from \$6607 to \$8346 per month. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs).

To be considered, submit a cover letter, résumé, and completed employment application via e-mail to [amollen@wrangell.com](mailto:amollen@wrangell.com), or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, AK 99929.  
**Applications will be accepted until end of business August 17, 2018.**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen  
Wrangell Borough Manager

**Publish: July 26, August 2, 9 and 16, 2018**

## NOTICE AND INFORMATION TO HEIRS OF NORMAN AND ELEANOR PRINCE

Case Number 1WR-18-00006PR, Norman Prince died on March 26, 1980 and Eleanor Prince died on December 15, 2000. This notice is to the heirs of Norman and Eleanor Prince who may have some interest in a parcel of real property located in Wrangell, Alaska that was owned by them.

(1) Norman and Eleanor died as the owners of record of real property described as: The North one-half of Lot Twelve (12), Block One (1) of the South Wrangell, Alaska Subdivision, within Lot Three (3), US Survey 3709, Township 63 South, Range 84 East Copper River Meridian, containing 0.61 acres, more or less.

(2) Norman and Eleanor Prince had acquired this property from Paul A. Stutz, Jr. and his wife, Yvonne Stutz.

(3) It was the family understanding that this property was to be inherited by Paul A. Stutz, Jr. and Yvonne Stutz after Norman and Eleanor Prince had died, however no deed was ever recorded conveying this property to Paul A. Stutz Jr. and Yvonne Stutz.

(4) Paul A. Stutz, Jr. died on March 16, 2017.

(5) Neva Kay Nolan, P.O. Box 924, Cordova, Alaska 99574 was appointed personal representative of Paul A. Stutz's estate on April 23, 2018.

(6) The Estate of Paul A. Stutz, Jr. has moved the court to quiet title of the above described property in the Estate of Paul A. Stutz, Jr. and Yvonne Stutz.

(7) If you object to the conveyance of this property to the Estate of Paul A. Stutz, Jr. and Yvonne Stutz, you must present your objection to the above named Court at Wrangell Trial Court, P.O. Box 869, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 within 30 days of publication of this notice. Please reference the case number found at the beginning of this notice in any communications.

(8) Papers and information relating to this action are on file in the above named court.

**Published: July 26, August 2 and 9, 2018**



City and Borough of Wrangell  
NOTICE INVITING BIDS  
**DIESEL GENERATION PLANT CONTROL UPGRADES**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of Diesel Generation Plant Control Upgrades.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK.** WORK consists of all activities necessary to provide upgrades of the MSLCs and DSLCs for diesel power generation and engine controls for automatic synchronizing from hydro power to diesel power. The Owner's Estimate for all work is approximately \$50,000.

**OPENING OF BIDS.** The Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 PM on July 31, 2018 in the Assembly Chambers of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska.

**OBTAINING CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.** Contract Documents may be obtained at the Borough Clerks Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929. The Contract Documents may also be downloaded free of charge on the City & Borough of Wrangell website ([www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com)) under the Bids and RFP's section. Downloading Contract Documents from the website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to insure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com).

**OWNER: City and Borough of Wrangell**  
Authorized By: Lisa Von Bargen, Borough Manager

**Publish: July 19 and July 26, 2018**

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska**  
**Notice to Voters**

Voter qualifications for the City & Borough of Wrangell, October 2, 2018, Regular Election, are as follows:



1. a United States citizen;
2. registered and qualified to vote in the State of Alaska elections and registered thereat for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the municipal election;
3. at least eighteen (18) years of age;
4. a resident of the City & Borough of Wrangell for thirty (30) days preceding the election;
5. not disqualified by reason of having been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, and if so, that civil rights have been restored, nor disqualified because judicially determined to be of unsound mind.

**Voters are cautioned to make certain their residence address is correct on their State Voter Registration.** City law requires that each voter shall be registered to vote in the precinct in which that person seeks to vote in order to vote in municipal elections.

Your name must appear on the precinct list! If you are registered in another city, you must change your registration **prior to Sunday, September 2, 2018, to qualify to vote in the Regular Election of October 2, 2018.**

You may ask the Borough Clerk to check the precinct register to assure your qualifications.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish: July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2018**

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL**

**JOB BULLETIN:**  
**Electric Utility Superintendent**  
**Wrangell Municipal Light and Power**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for an Electric Utility Superintendent to lead the Borough's Light and Power Department.

Under the direction of the Borough Manager, the Electric Utility Superintendent plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities and personnel of Wrangell Municipal Light & Power, including all construction, operations, personnel, and maintenance activities in the department.

The Superintendent performs regular evaluations and directs maintenance tasks to ensure proper generation and distribution operation, oversees the operation, maintenance and repair of the diesel generating plant and distribution system. They are responsible for all electrical maintenance, new work in power plant, overseeing and performing building maintenance, and repair duties to ensure that all power plant structures and distribution infrastructure are safe and operating efficiently. Additionally, they provide leadership to all electrical employees, prepare an annual budget for the electrical department and reports to the Borough Manager on the electrical department's operations.

Preferred education and experience include completion of an electrical apprenticeship program or trade school diploma, as well as extensive industrial maintenance and electrical work experience, considerable in-depth knowledge of electric generation and distribution operations to ensure that equipment installation and construction is done safely, efficiently, and according to specifications. Requires experience with contract bidding, good verbal and interpersonal skills, thorough knowledge of required electrical codes and standards as well as the ability to inspect building electrical systems. Mechanical knowledge and skill to oversee operations, maintenance and repair of diesel generators safely and efficiently is expected.

This is a full-time, salaried position with full benefits, at Grade 30. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs).

To be considered, submit a cover letter, resume, and completed employment application via e-mail to [amollen@wrangell.com](mailto:amollen@wrangell.com), or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, AK 99929. **Applications will be accepted until end of business August 17, 2018, but will be reviewed as received.**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Lisa Von Bargen  
Wrangell Borough Manager

**Publish: July 26, August 2, 9 and 16, 2018**

# Classified/Legals

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting on July 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. AKDT, via teleconference, in the offices of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency, 1900 First Avenue, Suite 318, Ketchikan, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the Agency's Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project and request a contract increase for a project. A portion of the meeting relating to the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project regarding employment related matters may be held in executive session. For additional information, please call (907) 228-2281.  
**Publish: July 26, 2018**

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## Puzzle answers from July 19 Edition



3	4	6	1	8	5	9	7	2
1	7	5	3	2	9	8	4	6
8	2	9	7	4	6	1	5	3
9	3	1	4	6	7	5	2	8
6	5	7	2	3	8	4	1	9
2	8	4	5	9	1	3	6	7
5	6	8	9	7	4	2	3	1
4	9	2	6	1	3	7	8	5
7	1	3	8	5	2	6	9	4

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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Salmon customers at home and abroad poised to take all wild Alaska salmon they can get

Alaska's salmon fisheries continue to lag alarmingly in several regions, with overall catches down by a third from the same time last year.

The single exception is at the unconquerable Bristol Bay, where a 37 million sockeye catch so far has single-handedly pushed Alaska's total salmon harvest towards a lackluster 60 million fish.

It's too soon to press the panic button and there is lots of fishing left to go, but fears are growing that Alaska's 2018 salmon season will be a bust for most fishermen. Worse, it comes on the heels of a cod crash and tanking halibut markets (and catches).

State salmon managers predicted that Alaska's salmon harvest this year would be down by 34 percent to 149 million fish, due to an expected shortfall of pinks. But with the exception of Bristol Bay, nobody expected fishing to be this bad.

Catches of sockeye, the big money fish, are off by millions at places like Copper River, Chignik and Kodiak, which has had the weakest sockeye harvest in nearly 40 years.

The weekly update by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute said that coho and Chinook catches remain slow, and while it is still way early in the season, the "bread and butter" pink harvests are off by 65 percent from the strong run of two years ago.

Chums are proving to be some fishermen's best friends again, following last year's record 25 million haul. While fishing is 40 percent behind last year's pace, catches are strong at Prince William Sound and in the Arctic regions.

Kotzebue is readying for a top 10 chum catch and some of the best salmon news comes from Norton Sound, where chums and pinks have buyers scrambling to keep up with the fish.

"Pink salmon have overrun the Sound again this year," wrote veteran Jim Menard for the state's weekly salmon updates at his ADF&G office in Nome. He added that several part-timers were hired this summer to help keep counts at the weirs passing pinks.

"While it's not quite combat fishing there are big crowds, especially kids at Nome River beach mouth, pulling in pinks nearly every cast," Menard said. He added that sockeyes also are showing up strong enough to "create another caravan of vehicles heading out of Nome to seine and gillnet sockeyes in the river."

**Into the void** - Salmon customers at home and abroad were poised to take all the wild Alaska salmon they could get going into the season. Demand was strong, and despite Alaska fishermen catching over a billion pounds of salmon last year, there were no

big carry overs in freezers. A lower U.S. dollar value also had increased interest by European buyers.

Competing farmed fish prices also have remained high all year and that sector has wasted no time filling any Alaska salmon void.

Imports of fresh whole and filleted farmed salmon to the U.S., especially from Chile, are at all-time highs with fillets topping 140 million pounds through May, an increase of nearly 14 percent. Market analyst Janice Schreiber of Urner Barry said farmed salmon pricing also is "exceeding three year averages."

Market reports also said that Norway is sending record amounts of its farmed salmon to

China. Chinese buyers are turning their backs on Alaska salmon made more expensive by Trump's 25 percent import tariff that went into effect July 6.

**Salmon grows greens** - Salmon is now being grown in the nation's first landlocked fish farm on 720 acres rural Northfield, Wisconsin.

Over the July fourth holiday a company called Superior Fresh sent its first batch of 20,000 pounds of fresh, 10 pound Atlantic salmon to Festival Food stores across the state.

Plans call for an annual output of about 72 tons of salmon and steelhead trout from the "fish house" which adjoins a huge greenhouse, making it the largest aquaponics facility in the

world.

In the growing system, which uses no pesticides or antibiotics, water is drawn from two deep wells and feeds into a hydroponic set up that produces 20,000 heads of lettuce every day. The water recirculates back to the fish tanks; the less than one percent of waste water is used to irrigate alfalfa for hay production.

Wisconsinites hail the dual output as the future of environmental-controlled agriculture. Superior Fresh said it is "priming the pump" for fresh greens and fish to be sold year round in places where it wouldn't otherwise be possible.

The east coast has even bigger plans for the world's largest

land-based salmon growing business, minus the greenhouse.

Nordic Aquafarms of Norway hopes to soon break ground on 40 acres in Belfast, Maine and eventually produce nearly 70 million pounds of Atlantic salmon annually.

The salmon will be grown in tanks holding up to 2 million gallons of recycling water that is sourced from a reservoir no longer used for the city's water supply.

Nordic Aquafarm president Erik Heim said in media reports that the U.S. currently imports more than 80 percent of its seafood, and that raising salmon in Maine cuts shipping time and costs and delivers a fresher product to American customers.

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# Tax Break for Sitka seniors ends: Future in doubt

SITKA — Sitka's senior citizen sales tax exemption ends at midnight Saturday, June 30, replaced by a needs-based rebate.

In a cost-savings move, the Assembly at its April 24 meeting narrowly approved eliminating the long-standing exemption from sales tax for residents age 65 and up, deciding instead to offer a needs-based rebate to qualifying Sitka seniors at the end of each fiscal year.

The rebate amount is \$350 per senior per year, or \$450 per household with two or more qualifying seniors. The figure is a broad estimate of the sales tax seniors pay on essentials, such as food, utilities and heating fuel for an average one or two person household, the finance department said.

"It is trying to acknowledge that some seniors live with very limited fixed incomes," said city Finance Director Jay Sweeney.

"The intent is to still provide a rebate program for folks who need it," said Maegan Bosak, city community affairs director.

Seniors qualify if they are a Sitka resident and present proof that they receive assistance from Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-

gram, Baranof Island Housing Authority, Sitka Tribe of Alaska General Assistance Program, the National School Lunch Program, and Senior Benefits Program.

In the past, all Alaskan seniors, regardless of income, were entitled to an exemption from the 5 or 6 percent sales tax.

The city estimates changing the exemption to a rebate will bring in some \$480,000 to \$525,000 in the first year, and less after the rebate program is implemented.

Changing the elderly exemption was a tough decision to make, said Assembly members who voted in favor.

"It was the single most difficult thing I've done on the Assembly and one of the most difficult things I've done in my life," said Bob Potrzuski, one of the four Assembly members who voted in favor. "But I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think it was absolutely necessary."

"I knew it was the right thing for Sitka's future," Mayor Matt Hunter said today. "Times have changed since we had very few folks retiring and an extremely young community. We're transitioning to an older region. ...

We would have fewer and fewer people paying taxes if we don't all pay equally."

The recently adopted Sitka comprehensive plan estimates the senior population will increase from the 14 percent in 2016, to 17.5 percent in 2020 and 23 percent in 2030.

Hunter said he would like to get rid of the sales tax on groceries for all residents but it is not possible unless Sitka finds another source of revenue to replace it.

"People from all age groups are struggling," Hunter said. "If we can help people struggling the most, it's better than any sort of arbitrary age limit."

The meeting in which the tax was discussed drew 42 comments from the public on both sides of the issue, with about two dozen weighing in against getting rid of the exemption, saying eliminating it would cause hardship.

Ben Miyasato, who voted against the change, cited respect for elders and concern that it was sending a message to seniors to shop out of town. Others commented that there were better options than eliminating the exemption, such as making further cuts to the city

budget.

"There are a lot more cuts that could be made prior to taking away the sales tax exemption," Aaron Bean said today.

The filing period for the senior rebate will be Jan. 1 through March 31, the same filing period as the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend program. Seniors must apply annually to receive a rebate, which will be paid in July.

But for all the time and effort expended in making the change in the senior sales tax exemption, it may have all been for nothing, say state tax officials. That's because of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision related to sales tax on purchases from out of state sellers such as Amazon.

In the landmark case South Dakota v. Wayfair the high court said states may charge tax on purchases made from out-of-state sellers, even if the seller does not have a physical presence in the taxing state.

"This had to do with sales tax and the taxation of internet commerce," said Marty McGee, state assessor, in a letter to city officials statewide. "This is not directly a property tax decision. All of us are reading this for the

first time and looking at how it will impact our communities. In general this only allows for the taxation by a statewide sales tax. It is silent about local sale tax. So no city or borough in Alaska should think that they now have reason to believe they can enforce their local sales or use tax on internet commerce.

"This decision will probably strengthen the argument for a statewide sales tax," he said. "A statewide sales tax opens Pandora's box on many issues, about sharing revenue and exemption from tax. Most states dictate to local governments on these issues. They are not inclined to adopt existing local laws and exemptions. Local governments have a limited ability to add on a local tax levy or add on special exemptions."

In all likelihood, McGee said, under a statewide sales tax there would be a "statewide tax with statewide uniform exemptions."

"Local governments that are very dependent on the sales tax have a lot to deal with if there is a statewide tax," McGee wrote. "Local assessors should anticipate a lot of questions following this decision."

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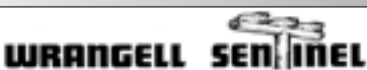
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# Von Wrangels share history with namesake town

By **CALEB VIERKANT**  
*Sentinel writer*

“For us, this journey is called ‘In the footsteps of Ferdinand von Wrangel,’ and you are a big footstep,” said Carola von Wrangel to the gathered crowd at the Nolan Center.

Ferdinand von Wrangel was governor of the Russian Empire’s holdings in Alaska in the early 1800s, as well as an avid explorer and scientist. The city of Wrangell is named after Baron von Wrangel. He also

oversaw the construction of the first fortification on Wrangell Island in 1834. He would go on to be a part of the Russian admiralty and as president of the Russian-American company, which had a large stake in the fur trade in Alaska. On Tuesday afternoon, July 24, several descendents of von Wrangel came to town to share their family’s history, as well as a piece of Wrangell’s history.

The afternoon was filled with food, history, and warm

welcomes between the family and the city of Wrangell. Vice mayor Steve Prysunka read a letter from the mayor welcoming everyone to town and wished them a happy visit. Cornelia von Wrangel, the head of the family, introduced several family members from the many branches of the family.

“We’re an international family,” she said. “We have a Russian branch, we have a German branch ... and an American branch.”

Several members of the family shared some history of Ferdinand and his descendants, one member explaining that the reason some spell their name with one “L” instead of two was because of how widely dispersed the family was, and that the spelling changes happened over time.

Carola, the organizer of the trip, also told an interesting story of Ferdinand’s wife. One of the requirements for Ferdinand to take his job in Alaska was that he be married. So, he searched all around for a woman willing to travel with him, and after three months he met Elizabeth.

“She married Ferdinand with the promise of a long trip across Siberia if she married him,” she said. “And then she came to Sitka. She really took under her wing the care of the natives in Sitka, with medical help. There are writings of her saying ‘we have to

treat people better’ ... I believe that she was the first Caucasian, white woman in Alaska.”

After sharing the family history and taking questions from the audience, everyone was in-

ited to mingle and share stories with each other. The evening was put together by Janell Privett, with the friends of the museum. She said the museum staff was involved as well.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Carola von Wrangel talking about some of the von Wrangel family history at the Nolan Center Tuesday afternoon. The city of Wrangell is named after her ancestor Ferdinand von Wrangel, who governed the area for the Russian Empire in the 1800s.

## Golf roundup

There were over 20 participants in July 21 and 22’s golf tournaments sponsored by First Bank.

First place in Saturday’s best ball tournament went to a team composed of Wayne Harding, Kathleen Harding and Grover Mathis. This team had a net score of 18 from a handicap of 16. Second place went to the team of Matt Hagen, Christa Hagen, Brian Slick and Kathy Slick, with a score of 18 and handicap of 20. Third place, with both a score and handicap of 19, went to Ed Rilatos, Aleisha Mollen, Rebecca Smith and Clint Lewis.

Chris Ellis had the straightest drive of the day at 5 feet, six inches. Matt Hagen was closest to the pin at 16 feet, five inches.

Sunday’s tournament saw first place go to Rocky Littleton, Marva Reid, Rodney Littleton and Kenny Madsen. The first place team had a net score of 19 with a handicap of 15. The second place team was composed of Wayne Harding, Kathleen Harding and Grover Mathis. They scored 20 with a handicap of 16. Third place went to Eric Kading, Randy Littleton and Jim Sarvela with a score of 20 and a handicap of 14.

Jerry Bakeberg had the straightest drive of the day at 92 inches. Brett Woodbury was closest to the pin at 19 feet, seven inches.

Bearfest is coming up this next weekend, and a golf tournament is planned for Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will be at Muskeg Meadows, registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Sunday’s game will be at the senior apartments, registration also begins at 9:30 a.m.

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